

Summary of the Churchyard Regulations

(A full and comprehensive copy is available from St. Leonard's Langho)

We thank you for your co-operation in adhering to these regulations so that this Christian churchyard is a place where all who are laid to rest here may be remembered before God.

A churchyard is a place of Christian burial and as such it is right that we are sensitive to the tradition and nature of the churchyard, which is different in many respects from that of a local authority cemetery. There has to be regulation over what is installed in a churchyard because churchyards are public places, very often of significant historical interest. It is important that there is nothing within them which conflicts with the surroundings and certain rules are set down regarding this under Churchyard Regulations which are beyond the Vicar's control.

Graves at St. Leonard's Old Langho

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is not able to reserve new graves.

Burials cannot take place without prior permission.

We are obliged to point out that relatives do not own the grave their loved one is buried in.

Ashes can't be scattered here and new grave cannot be opened just for cremated remains.

No benches may be placed in the graveyard without prior consent.

Memorial trees may not be planted without permission.

A fee is charged for permission to place any monument. This can only be done after the size, design and inscription has been approved and written permission has been given. We recommend not erecting a monument until at least 6 months after the burial.

(Monument means: Gravestone, Cross, small tablet, stone vase or any other memorial made out of any material).

The maintenance of the headstone is the responsibility of the purchaser, and in the case of their death, this falls to their descendants.

We retain the right to 'lay-down' any headstone which poses a danger to the public.

It should be noted that the graveyard at Old Langho can often become waterlogged. This can cause some graves to subside; if this happens then it will be the responsibility of the next of kin to rectify.

Graves are to be left grassed. **No edgings or gardening is allowed.**

Any items left on graves may be removed and disposed of without notice.

Flowers are allowed to be placed in a vase built into the memorial.

Wreaths or poppies will be allowed if attached to the memorial, for a short appropriate period of time. We would ask you to remove dead flowers or wreaths and we retain the right to do so when necessary.

If you see other graves that do not conform to the criteria we set, quite simply this is not permissible and should not have taken place; we have resolved that for the future there are no more 'non-permissible' graves allowed. Churchyards are required by law to meet certain criteria and as a Parochial Church Council our aim is to keep the churchyard as a sacred place and a fit and proper place for your loved ones.

St Leonard's C of E Church Langho & Billington

Memorials

If any shape, material, ornamentation or inscription is not permissible under The Chancellor's Regulations, the applicant has the right to make an application for a faculty to review the decision.

The memorial must be erected by masons currently listed on either: The BRAMM (British Register of Memorial Masons).

The memorial must be erected to fully comply with BS 8415 and the current edition of the NAMM Code of Working Practice.

Materials

Materials used in the memorial must harmonise with the natural local landscape and the existing memorials.

York stone and green slate or their equivalent colours and durability are allowed. All other Materials including polished granite and white marble are **not** allowed.

If a material not falling into the accepted category is requested, then a faculty would be required to have this.

Dimensions

Headstones – **MAXIMUM** dimensions including anything above ground including any plinth, base or headstone are 48" (1200 mm) high, 36" (900 mm) wide and 18" (450 mm) deep.

The foundation must always be below ground level in St Leonard's Churchyard.

Shapes

Many shapes are acceptable that fit within the maximum dimensions and are structurally compliant with BS 8415 and the current edition of the NAMM Code of Working Practice.

As St. Leonard's is a very old churchyard, only shapes that pre date 1918 and already exist within the churchyard will be allowed. Shapes such as open books, hearts and harps would **NOT** be allowed.

Ornamentation

Designs and ornaments cut into the material are allowed, for example flowers and crosses, but these may **not** be in colour.

Ornamentation reflecting an occupation or hobby is **not** allowed.

No photograph, cameo or portraiture of the deceased is allowed.

Inscriptions

All wording on inscriptions must be submitted for approval. Nicknames may **not** be used nor relationships such as Pops, Gramps

Dates may **not** be formatted as follows 29.12.56 – 5.6.11. 29 Dec 1956 – 5 June 2011 is an acceptable format.

If there is any doubt about what is permissible under The Chancellor's Regulations please speak to the Vicar who will be happy to assist you.